



Icebreaker

What's your favorite romantic movie? What makes it your favorite?

One of my favorite books on marriage and relationships claimed that feelings of love result from actions of love. Do you agree with that? Has it been true for you?

Understanding True Love

John, the apostle writes about love more vividly than any other New Testament author. As we begin our study in 1 John, consider first some other things John wrote about love.

Read John 11:32-36. What do you learn about Jesus' love from this story?

Read John 15:9-17. What does this passage say to you about love?

Read Revelation 2:1-5. Jesus challenges the believers in Ephesus to reclaim their first love (probably for him and for each other), and he gives clear steps in verse 5 for what they should do in response to their lost love. Do you think those steps would restore their love? Can those steps apply to any kind of love? Why?

Read 1 John 4:7-12. We'll be studying these passages more in the coming weeks, but there are just a few key observations we can make now to set the tone for our study in 1 John.

- God's love is initiative and sacrifice.
- The love I need comes from God; the love I receive, I give to others.
- If I live in love, God lives in me.

Share with the group which point means the most to you today and why.

Take it Home

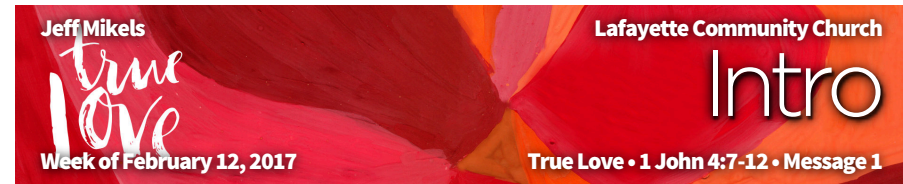
Consider the three lessons of 1 John 4:7-12...

What does it mean to live this love in the context of a church?

What does it mean to live this love in the context of a family?

What does it mean to live this love in the context of a romantic relationship?

If you have a love that needs to be restored, ask the group to pray for you.



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